



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 648

PRINTERS NO. 1297

PRIME SPONSOR: Stefano

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Snowmobile/ATV Regulation Restricted Acct	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 648, Printer's Number 1297, amends Title 75 relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), splits the Snowmobile/ATV Restricted Account into two separate restricted accounts, provides for an annual report and changes the composition of an advisory committee.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to make a number of changes relating to ATVs in the Vehicle Code, but the primary focus is to divide the current Snowmobile/ATV Restricted Account in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) into two separate restricted accounts: the ATV Management Restricted Account and the Snowmobile Management Restricted Account. All moneys received from Snowmobile and ATV program sources, such as registrations, penalties, sale of publications or services and enforcement-related fees, shall be deposited into its respective restricted account.

The department shall draw moneys from these accounts to use in performing program duties, including registration and certificate of title activities, training, education, enforcement activities, and grants-in-aid related to construction and maintenance of snowmobile and ATV trails and acquisition of equipment, supplies and interests in land. The bill also states that, "with the exception of trails used by both snowmobiles and ATVs, under no circumstances shall the department expend any moneys from the accounts except for the activity that generated those accounts."

The bill lists several provisions directing agency action, including:

- DCNR shall promulgate regulations related to the grant program for snowmobiles and ATVs "in a manner that is separate from regulations pertaining to any other grant program administered by the department." The regulations shall also include a semiannual grant approval process.
- The restricted accounts shall be audited every two years, which is done for the current restricted account. Copies of the audit shall be posted and maintained on DCNR's website and shall be provided to the Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee, the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.
- DCNR shall prepare an annual report on income and expenditures from each restricted account and it shall be posted and maintained on the department's publicly accessible Internet website and provided to the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

The bill makes editorial changes and revises the membership of the existing Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee to include a member from the Department of Community and Economic Development and a member from a list of three candidates provided by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. The two members representing conservation or non-motorized recreation are removed. It also requires the committee to meet at least biannually instead of annually.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill splits the current Snowmobile/ATV Restricted Account in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) into two separate accounts: the ATV Management Restricted Account and the Snowmobile Management Restricted Account.

Based on prior year revenues in the Snowmobile/ATV Restricted Account, snowmobile and ATV registrations would provide approximately \$505,000 into the Snowmobile Management Restricted Account and \$2.916 million into the ATV Management Restricted Account. This does not include other sources of revenue in the current account which generated a combined total of \$4.5 million in FY 2015-16. Per the legislation, this revenue “shall be deposited in the two restricted accounts on a proportional basis” based on the activity.

It is expected that any additional administrative costs for managing these accounts, promulgating regulations and preparing and distributing reports would be covered under the department’s existing operations. The bill also changes the existing Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee by requiring at least one extra meeting per year. Additional meetings will slightly increase administrative costs, such as agency staff and per diem expenses of the committee, but such costs would be covered under existing operations as well.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: July 12, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.